Foreign funds used for conversion of Hindus

2851. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign funds for the religious institutions in the country are being used to convert the Hindus to other religions;

(b) whether several religious institutions have also urged the Central Government to impose a ban on such inflow of foreign funds into the country; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government have no information, which has been substantiated, that foreign contributions are being used for conversions.

(c) Does not arise.

Arms Licences to Tribals in Arunachal Pradesh

2852. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Arunachal Pradesh Government is distributing arms licences to the Adi and Missing Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh residing in the border areas of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether Government apprehend that this might further aggravate the border situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to the report furnished by the Arunachal Pradesh Government arms licences are issued by them in accordance with relevant provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962. No special programme has been initiated for granting of licences to the people in border areas. These licences are granted to the villagers primarily for protection of crops against attack of wild animals.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade between India and China

2853. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope of increasing the trade between India and China;

(b) if so, what efforts have been made to correct the balance of trade which is presently tilted heavily against India; and

(c) what other items are proposed to be exported to China apart from traditional items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) As the present level of trade between India and China does not reflect the full potential that exists, it is felt that there is scope for increasing trade between the two countries.

(b) The issue of trade imbalance has been taken up with the Chinese Government during the last round of trade talks in May, 1987. A Trade Protocol for the period 1st January, 1987 to 31st March, 1988 was signed which has identified certain specific items for exports/imports with indicative quantities/values. Other steps include exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs etc.